Global Positioning System (GPS) and wireless set on the small mechanized fishing vessles of below 20 meter length.

**Broker's activities in vegetable markets**

†2905. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the brokers working in vegetable markets (Sabji Mandi) buy vegetables at a low price from farmers and sell these to consumers at almost double price;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the provision made by Government to ensure that farmers should get reasonable price of their products and consumers, too, should get vegetables at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Agriculture marketing being a State subject, the intermediaries/brokers are regulated by the provisions of Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act (APMC Act)/Rules of the respective States. The role of broker in the market is to negotiate the deal between the buyer and the seller for which brokerage is charged at a stipulated rate fixed under bye-laws of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee under the APMC Act/Rules. There are other intermediaries like Commission agents, wholesalers, retailers under different marketing channels through which the produce of farmers reaches to the consumers. The studies conducted by the Ministry in 2004 has estimated that the share of farmers in ultimate price of fruits and vegetables varies from 32% to 68% depending on the marketing channel adopted, the distance of the markets and the infrastructure facilities available.

(c) With a view to ensure reasonable price to the farmer for his produce and availability of vegetables at reasonable price to the consumer by reducing the number of intermediaries, this Ministry has circulated a Model Act namely, the State Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2003 to all the states to guide them in bringing changes in their respective APMC Acts to allow direct marketing, contract farming and to permit setting up of competitive markets in private and cooperative

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

sectors. Since agricultural market is a State subject, it is for the State Governments to adopt the Model Law as suited to them. The States of Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Sikkim, Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan have made changes in their respective APMC Act on the lines of the Model Act. The States/UTs of Kerala, Manipur, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep have no APMC Act and hence there is no necessity for adopting the Model Act. The APMC act of Tamil Nadu already provides for the reforms envisaged in the Model Act. The States/UTs of Haryana, Karnataka, NCT of Delhi, Chandigarh, Maharashtra, UP and Gujarat have partially adopted the provisions of Model Act.

This Ministry has also launched the Scheme for Development/ Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardisation to assist the states in creating the required marketing infrastructure which can reduce the role of intermediaries, so as to ensure maximum share of farmers in ultimate price of fruits and vegetables.

**Suicides by farmers in Punjab**

†2906. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers have committed suicide due to debt stress in Punjab also during the past years like the farmers of the other States;

(b) if not, whether it is a fact that this matter has been brought into the notice of Governments by the present Chief Minister of the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As reported by the State Government, there were two cases of suicide by farmers in Punjab during the year 2003-04. This is due to various reasons like non-payment of loan from Arhtia/Bank loans and tension in family, etc.; however, it has been stated to be difficult to explain the phenomenon to a single cause.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.